

# The Independent

ZIMMERMAN & SMITH,  
Publishers and Proprietors

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA.

## WAS A MIGHTY BLAST

TWO TONS OF DYNAMITE LET GO  
NEAR CHICAGO.

People Thought It Was Another  
Earthquake—Rumor from Venezuela  
that England Wants to Arbitrate  
United States a Protector.

### Felt for Forty Miles Around.

Four thousand pounds of dynamite, stored in a little frame shed less than one thousand feet from the Chicago drainage canal at Rome, exploded at 4 o'clock Friday morning, and the terrific concussion was communicated to an area circumscribed by a circle forty miles in diameter. Every symptom of a powerful seismic disturbance was created by the power of the explosive material. Strata of limestone rock, dipping and falling in regular waves, were disturbed as if by some overwhelming subterranean power, and in districts miles away, where these strata came near the surface of the earth, houses were perceptibly jarred, dishes rattled, clocks stopped and the outpouring of startled people caused alarm in the neighborhoods. No one was hurt, but much damage was done to window glass in surrounding towns.

### Death in a Theater Panic.

In a senseless panic, caused by a defective gas burner and a foolish cry of fire, at the old Front street theater in Baltimore, Friday night, twenty-four persons were killed, two fatally injured and ten more seriously hurt. Almost all of the victims are of Polish nationality and Hebrew extraction. The theater was filled with an audience assembled to listen to Hebrew opera. There were at least 3,000 persons present when the curtain went up. One of the attendants went to light a gas jet which appeared to have been extinguished. As he turned the cock and applied a match the light flared up, and it was seen that there was no tip to the burner. The jet was in plain view of the greater part of the audience, but as the glare from it showed against the wall some one in the gallery shouted "Fire, fire, fire!" In an instant there was a scramble, in which the whole audience took part. The vanguard reached the entrance on Front street, pushed on by the howling, shrieking mob behind them. There, those in the foremost rank were compelled to turn to the right and to the left to reach the double entrance way, built in the form of storm doors. As the crowds from the two doors, one on the right, the other on the left, reached the landing they met. There was a brief struggle, and then some one lost his or her footing and fell. In a moment the crowd, pushed with irresistible force from the rear, crowded upon the prostrate form and began to turn to stumble and reel, and presently to fall prone upon the floor under the myriads of feet coming like a herd of frightened buffaloes from behind. In less time than it takes to tell it, the landing was packed twenty or thirty deep with the dead and the wounded, and the hundreds of hands were struggling over them to reach the street.

### In Great Britain Hedging?

A dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, says: It is rumored that England, believing that the United States is determined to fight, is now willing to arbitrate with Venezuela and wishes to resume diplomatic relations for that reason. The Venezuelan Government, while declining to speak officially regarding this rumor, admits that Venezuela cannot now renew negotiations or receive any communication except through the United States. There is great excitement over a dispatch cabled to the London Times, and everyone demands the expulsion of the Times correspondent, Charles Akers. The American Minister said in an interview that such action would be imprudent at this juncture, and his counsel was accepted. The society for the defense of Venezuelan territory has elected Cleveland and Crespo honorary presidents. It offers the Government 50,000 men ready for war.

### Wide Removed to Reading Jail.

Official confirmation has been given to the London rumor that Oscar Wilde was quietly removed from Wormwood-Scrubs, the Government prison in which he has been confined since his conviction, to the jail at Reading. The removal was ordered by Home Secretary Ridley as the result of representations from the physicians in attendance on the prisoners at Wormwood-Scrubs, and is in the nature of an act of clemency. It is understood that Wilde will not be compelled to do any labor in his new quarters, but will be allowed an abundance of reading matter, as well as the privilege of exercising as much as he pleases in the jailyard, when the weather is favorable.

### BREVITIES.

The schooner Edna M. Champion, which sailed from Philadelphia on Oct. 12 for Port Tampa, Fla., with a cargo of coal, and has not since been heard from, has been given up as lost by her owners. The vessel had a crew consisting of Capt. Frank Somers and nine men, and with the cargo, was valued at \$45,000.

The following cablegram was received at the Temple, Chicago, directed to Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the World's W. C. T. U., and signed by the vice president, Lady Henry Somerset: "Reigate, England.—President W. C. T. U., Temple, Chicago: We join prayers and influence to yours to avert greatest calamity possible to the world, a war between nations in whose history are involved the highest hopes of humanity. God grant we may stand united to fight oppression everywhere."

"LADY HENRY SOMERSET."  
William Waldorf Astor is reported to be engaged to Lady Randolph Churchill. The Manitoba Government has replied to the appeal of the Dominion Government for a compromise on the parochial school question, declaring that it will handle the matter itself and resist any outside interference.

"R. L. Higginson, of Boston, has begun suit for divorce against his wife, who eloped to Italy with James W. Smith.

Otto Hilmer, of Chicago, committed suicide at Atlanta because he had made a failure of a concession at the exposition.

## EASTERN.

By an explosion of gas at Shoenberger's rolling mill at Pittsburgh eight men were burned, one of them fatally. The men were working at the bottom of a blast furnace. When the gas exploded it forced the hot slag which accumulates in the cupola over the sides. Before the men could get out of the way the hot metal poured out over them.

The odor of gas attracted the attention of attendants to apartments at New York, occupied by Arno Karb and his wife. Karb was found breathing his last, while his wife was unconscious from asphyxiation. The latter was restored, but the husband died. As the police suspected that the couple had planned suicide, the woman was placed under arrest. Karb was 38 years of age and his wife is 30 years old.

Wall street is rapidly recovering from its scare, and the feeling Monday was almost up to the normal mark. This was due to the receipt of early cables showing an advance in American stocks at London and the action of the New York Clearing-House Association in giving the clearing-house committee of the Stock Exchange authority to issue clearing-house loan certificates to an unlimited extent. Only one engagement of gold for shipment was reported, and that was for only \$250,000, by L. Van Hoffman & Co. The Phoenix National Bank deposited \$100,000 in gold with the treasury in exchange for currency.

The men in New York who are arguing in favor of a backdown from the great principle of American liberty embodied in the Monroe doctrine, and who advocate a miserable desertion of the Chief Executive at a moment when he has taken a firm stand against greedy British encroachment, received an unlooked for and hearty rebuff at Cooper Union Monday night. It was a meeting called in the interest of peace at which Henry George, Ernest Crosby, the Rev. Dr. Lyman J. Abbott, and others were advertised to make addresses. But peace was not within the walls of Cooper Union. A vast throng of patriotic men and women, old and young, proud of American liberty and despising English arrogance, collected there ready and determined to uphold their sentiment the stand which the government at Washington has taken. There were others there, too, ready to applaud the overtures of those who claim the Monroe doctrine plays no part in the present controversy. But their applause was often unheeded in the storm of hisses and catcalls that the remarks of the speakers brought forward. Every sentence uttered by the speakers was received with storms of hisses and men were on their feet in half a dozen parts of the hall at once endeavoring to lodge a protest against the sentiment expressed from the speakers' rostrum. It proved that the vast majority in New York are staunch supporters of the government. It showed that while there is no unreasonable desire for war, no petty jingoism, opposition to the government at Washington is regarded by them as treason.

## WESTERN.

The Union National and American National Banks of Omaha have consolidated.

The Lawrence Reduction Works, Victoria, B. C., owned by a company of which J. C. Laurier is president, have been sold for \$1,250,000. The works had been very successful in the treatment of low grade Cripple Creek ore and will be rebuilt.

John H. Riley, who was Postmaster of Cincinnati during Cleveland's first administration, is in a suburban sanitarium, a hopeless physical and mental wreck from overwork. Mr. Riley, who was an extremely active business man, has been failing for a year or more, and has spent the last six months in rest, but has steadily grown worse. He was prominent in the Cerman branch of Masonry.

Henry Larson, of Pine Lawn, a suburb of St. Louis, entered the house of Constable John Hanson during the latter's absence Monday night for the purpose of robbery. He was taking liberties with a little girl left alone there when Hanson appeared and arrested him. On the way to the city, Larson assaulted the constable and broke away, but had not gone far when a shot from Hanson's pistol killed him.

S. McDowell, aged 13, is in jail at Logansport, Ind., for beating his mother, who is a widow 64 years old, living near Georgetown. Her right thigh was broken, she was bruised and cut about the head and neck, and injured internally so that recovery is impossible. The outrage was committed because she refused to give the young scamp \$5. It will be difficult to prevent a lynching when she dies.

The Porter Bros. Company, San Francisco, Cal., the largest dealers in dried fruits on the Pacific coast, announced Thursday it was unable to meet its payments and asked its creditors for further time. The firm is unable to state the amount of liabilities and assets, but as the company's business during the present year amounted to \$1,500,000 the amounts are probably large. Investments in fruit lands and warehouses are said to be the causes of the suspension.

A strong, healthy tone was manifested on the Chicago Stock Exchange Tuesday. The explanation of Monday's excited market is conceded to be that certain banks called on borrowers for wider margins on loans secured by certain stocks as collateral, and the debtors were forced to sell. The securities principally affected in this manner were West Chicago and Diamond Match, and the forced sales of these stocks were accountable for the low range of prices. This difficulty was removed Tuesday and the trend of the whole list was upward. Closing prices were the highest of the day in most instances.

Pictorially and dramatically, "Rory of the Hill" is an ideal Irish play. All the characters are strongly drawn, and there is an atmosphere about every scene that is delightful. Irish life, landscape and manners are skillfully reflected, and the action moves smoothly and with cumulative interest. The story of Mr. Roach is accounted one of the most pleasing of later stage characters, sincere, robust, manly and lovable. Miles Standish praised Caesar because he could both write and fight, says an eminent dramatic writer, and at both was equally skillful, but now comes Roach and goes Julius one better, for he can write, fight and act, and is as much at home in one accomplishment as in another. "Rory of the Hill" is still at McVicker's Chicago Theater.

The heavy rain has caused great alarm along the Osage and Missouri River valleys, in Missouri. The already swollen streams are rising, and it is feared that the high water of last week will be great-

ly augmented. Bottom farms are swept of fencing, haystacks, corn in shock and many outbuildings. A great amount of stock has been drowned, and if the rain continues a few hours the river valleys will be a scene of wild devastation. Several lives are reported to be lost along the Osage Valley. Word from Tusculum says that more than 100,000 bushels of corn within a small radius of bottom land was washed away and thousands of railroad ties and bridge timbers have floated away. The Osage is now higher than it was in 1882, when it broke the record. The Missouri is higher than it ever was before. The Missouri is not dangerously high, but is rising and promises to be booming soon.

Two were killed, five others so badly injured they may die, and two others seriously hurt by a premature explosion of dynamite Monday on Nov. 14 of the Chicago drainage canal. All the victims of the disaster were laborers under the foremanship of Richard Powers. According to the statements of drainage canal employees the gang had just completed a drilling and had filled sixteen holes of the blast with 250 pounds of dynamite. Investigation indicated the accident was due to the carelessness or misfortune of John Bowen, a workman, whose duty it was to explode the blasts. Bowen had prepared for a blast by placing the electrical machine used in exploding the dynamite in the bed of the ditch. To test the machine he then inserted an explosive cap and turned away for a moment. Coming back he pulled the lever and there was a terrific explosion. One after another the charges of dynamite placed along the face of the rock blew up with reports distinctly heard at Joliet, seven miles away. The laborers were in a frenzy at the killing and mangle of their comrades, and it is said, started after Bowen with the avowed intention of wreaking vengeance on him. He was arrested by the drainage police before the mob caught him, however, and locked up. It is usual on the canal to give a danger signal before exploding a blast by heavy blows from a steam signal. No signal was blown Monday, however.

## FOREIGN.

A dispatch via Madrid, from Colon, Province of Matanzas, Cuba, confirms the report that Spanish troops have routed 4,000 insurgents on the Calumena River. One hundred of the enemy were killed.

The Frankfort Zeitung, Berlin, publishes a dispatch from Constantinople saying that there has been fierce fighting at Zeitoun between the Turkish troops who surrounded that city and the insurgent Armenians who defended it. Both sides are said to have lost frightfully. The Turks were 10,000 strong and had twenty-four pieces of artillery. The Armenians numbered 15,000, but had no artillery.

The British ship *Morelos*, Capt. Coomber, was stranded Monday off the Baltimore's light-house, near Dungeness, Ireland, about a mile and a half from the shore. Her crew, numbering thirty-six men, were lashed to her rigging throughout the night, and it was feared they would perish, as the sea was so heavy as to render it impossible for a lifeboat to live for any length of time. After daylight Tuesday morning a lifeboat managed to reach the ship and took off nineteen of the imperiled seamen. The vessel was breaking up when the lifeboat was compelled to leave her and went to pieces shortly afterward, the remaining seventeen members of the crew going down with her. A large three-masted vessel was seen flying signals of distress in Kingston Bay. A lifeboat which went to her assistance was capsized and her crew of sixteen men were drowned. A second lifeboat which started for the rescue was also overturned, but the crew managed to cling to the boat, which was finally righted. The fate of the three-master is not known.

## IN GENERAL.

Eight county prisoners at Louisville, Ky., procured a saw and by cutting a hole through the jail roof made their escape. Among them was Bill Ryder, the notorious outlaw awaiting trial for murder.

It is now known that the schooner *Victory*, which sailed from Ingles for Havre de Grace, N. E., some days ago, with eighteen passengers and a crew of four men, has been lost, as parts of her have been washed on Horse Island. It is certain that the twenty-two persons are lost.

Residents of Ashland, Ky., Portsmouth, Ironton and Chambersburg, Ohio, will join in an endeavor to recover a fortune of \$200,000 due the Pegge heirs at Philadelphia. The claim arises through the expiration of a ninety-nine year lease upon valuable property granted the city and the claim has been in litigation since 1892.

## MARKET REPORTS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$3.50 to \$5.25; hogs, shipping grades, \$2.00 to \$3.75; sheep, fair to choice, \$2.50 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 55c to 56c; corn, No. 2, 25c to 26c; oats, No. 2, 16c to 17c; rye, No. 2, 34c to 37c; butter, choice creamery, 25c to 27c; eggs, fresh, 20c to 22c; potatoes, per bushel, 20c to 30c; broom corn, \$2.00 to \$4.45 per ton for poor to choice.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$4.50; hogs, choice light, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, common to prime, \$2.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, 63c to 65c; corn, No. 1 white, 25c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 21c to 23c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 62c to 63c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 23c to 25c; oats, No. 2 white, 16c to 17c; rye, No. 2, 31c to 33c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$3.50 to \$4.50; hogs, \$2.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 63c to 65c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 25c to 28c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 20c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 41c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$2.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 64c to 65c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 26c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 20c to 21c; rye, 37c to 38c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 red, 63c to 65c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 23c to 28c; oats, No. 2 white, 19c to 20c; rye, No. 2, 37c to 39c; clover seed, \$4.00 to \$4.10.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 54c to 56c; corn, No. 3, 25c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 18c to 19c; barley, No. 2, 31c to 33c; rye, No. 1, 30c to 31c; pork, mess, \$7.25 to \$7.75.

Buffalo—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.25; hogs, \$2.00 to \$4.00; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 70c to 72c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 30c to 32c; oats, No. 2 white, 22c to 23c.

New York—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, \$2.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 67c to 68c; corn, No. 2, 33c to 34c; oats, No. 2 white, 22c to 24c; butter, creamery, 17c to 20c; eggs, Western, 20c to 22c.

## TARIFF IN THE HOUSE

DINGLEY BILL GOES THROUGH  
WITH A RUSH.

Measure Forced Through the House  
to Increase Revenue by a Horizontal  
Increase in the Tariff—Passed by  
a Vote of 205 to 81.

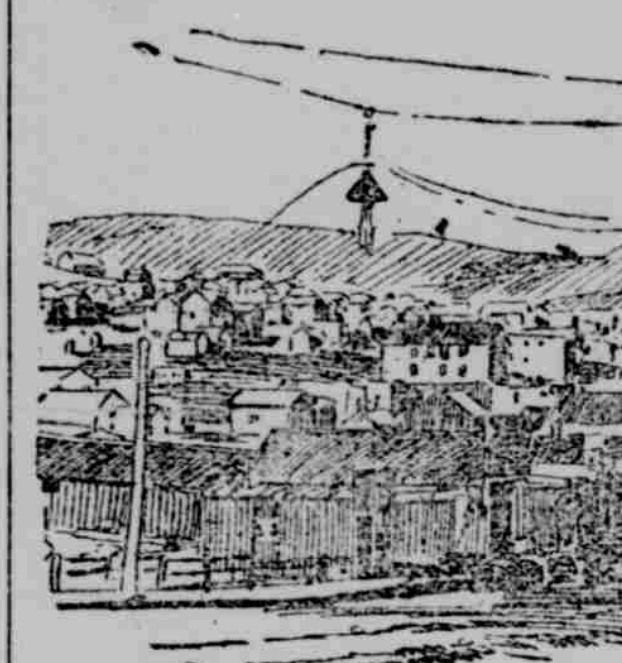
With Whip and Spur.  
The House Thursday responded to the appeal of the President by passing a tariff bill, the operation of which is limited to two and a half years and which is designed to raise \$40,000,000 for the relief of the treasury. The vote was on party lines with two exceptions. The Republicans all voted for the bill except Harman (Mont.), who did not vote, and the Democrats and Populists against it save Newlands (Pop., Nev.), who voted in favor of the measure. The special order under which the bill was brought to a vote at 5 o'clock in the evening, after



CONGRESSMAN DINGLEY.

three and a half hours of debate, was introduced in its character and compelled the members to adopt or reject it without opportunity of offering amendments of any kind.

Although there was the brilliant setting that usually accompanies a field day in the house, the debate lacked much of the spirit and vim which generally characterize a partisan battle in the lower branch of Congress. Even the preliminary skirmish over the adoption of the rule, which ordinarily precipitates the fiercest wrangling, passed off quietly. The debate itself was participated in by the leaders on both sides. The Republicans contended that the first necessity of the



MAIN STREET IN CRIPPLE CREEK.

treasury was revenue to supply the continued deficiency. Every speaker denied that the proposed measure was a Republican protection bill. It was, they claimed, an emergency revenue bill on protective lines. The Democrats took the position that there was no lack of revenue in the treasury, and that the passage of a bill to increase taxation would in no wise help the situation nor furnish the relief desired by the President and Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Dingley and Mr. Doliver of the Republicans and Mr. Crisp and Mr. Turner of the Democrats carried off the honors.

The bill passed repeals the present tariff law until Aug. 1, 1898. Except for a few articles it is the antithesis of Col. Morrison's famous "horizontal" bill. His was a straight 20 per cent. ad valorem cut. This is a horizontal raise. The duties on all the articles in all the schedules except those covering wool and woolsens, sugar, and wood and wooden manufactures are advanced 15 per cent. This is subject to the condition that in no case must the duties exceed those collected under the McKinley law. Sugar is left as it is, at 40 per cent. ad valorem. Raw wool is required to pay a duty equivalent to 60 per cent. of that imposed by the McKinley law. Most woolen manufactures are required to pay 60 per cent. of the specific duties of the old law, but carpets will have to pay the specific duty of the old law in addition to the ad valorem duty of the present one. Imported lumber is taken off the free list and required to pay 20 per cent. of the McKinley duties. Lumber and wool are the only free list articles which are made dutiable. Therefore salt and a number of agricultural products are not affected by Thursday's legislation. When the bill was put upon its passage it was passed 205 to 81, the vote being taken by yeas and nays. There was no demonstration of any kind on the announcement of the vote.

## E. LIND CHAPLAIN OF CONGRESS.

Rev. H. N. Conden Lost His Sight in  
the Union's Service.

The chaplain of the new Congress, Rev. H. N. Conden, of Port Huron, Mich., lost his eyesight in the service of his country. When the first call for volunteers was made he enlisted in the Sixth Ohio Infantry, being then 18 years of age, and when his term had expired re-enlisted for three years. He was with McClellan in the West Virginia campaign and took part in the battle of Shiloh. In February, 1863, he was transferred to the First Mississippi Marine Brigade. Near Austin, Miss., he received a charge of small shot in his eyes, causing total blindness.

After honorable discharge, Mr. Conden, finding there was no hope of recovering his eyesight, entered the blind school at Columbus, Ohio, taking a course of seven years. Afterward he entered a theological seminary at Canton, N. Y. After filling pastorates in that State, Ohio, and Massachusetts he moved to Port Huron, Mich., four years ago. His work there has been highly successful, he erecting a handsome Universalist church.

## CRIPPLE CREEK A CRIPPLER.

Its Present Gold Mining Boom Said  
to Be a Big Conspiracy.

Cripple Creek, Col., has recently sprung into prominence as a great gold mining center. There are probably 200 mines, very few of which have produced ore in paying quantities. The great majority of the mines are nothing more than green goods speculations with holes in the ground, with nothing in the holes but paid-for press clippings. Mines hitherto unheard of have been stocked and listed, and mines which have never justified any higher rating than they have had for years have suddenly been boosted to a degree that reflects on the credulity of the American public. The earnings of the mines which have been worked have not materially increased, and the promises of sudden large dividends are found only in the process of organization for months, and it has not been without its newspaper connections. One New York paper has boomed the craze to the extent of predicting the rise in values of this mining stock, for the obvious purpose of inducing Eastern investments. The chance to swindle the public in the name of the Cripple Creek mining field was foreseen by those having the true interests of the region most at heart. In a brochure issued by reputable business men of Colorado Springs as long ago as last April the following warning was given:

"Incidental injury is inflicted upon mining regions of proven merit by the floating of wildcat companies, and advertising their lies on a magnificent scale.

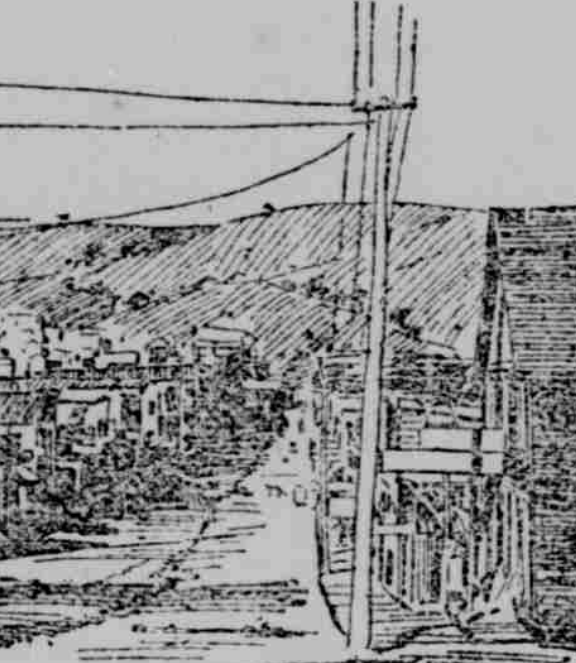
"The greater the merit of a district the more widely this sort of thing is successfully carried on. Generally it is wise to leave any mining schemes severely alone that is boomed in the large metropolitan dailies and other newspapers.

"Cripple Creek affords many favorable and attractive propositions for money making, but, up to date, not one of these is included among the number that have been given wide notoriety beyond the boundaries of Colorado.

"There is a determination among our prominent mining men to have, as far as possible, only the facts as they exist in regard to the camp spread abroad, and to puncture all bogus or balloon projects sent kiting in an alluring fashion, to victimize the credulous.

"In a word, and in conclusion, do not purchase the shares of any company without first investigating, for there is nothing so good that it will not keep long enough for this to be done."

Many of the mines of the Cripple Creek country which are capitalized at from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 have never paid 10 cents profit since the first spadeful of earth was turned up where they are located, and there is no reason to suppose they ever will. There is a saying in Colorado that "for every dollar in gold or silver taken out of the ground \$1.50 or \$2 is put into it. This does not mean, of



CRIPPLE CREEK POLICE CHIEF.

course, that there are no paying mines in that country—there are many of them—but it does mean that more money is spent annually in mining operations than is taken out in ore throughout the State.

Ninety-nine out of every hundred men in the East who put money into Western gold or silver mining projects have simply paid the expenses for developing prospect-holes, which ultimately proved valueless. These conditions are unchanged at this time, except that the money of the investors will not go to the development of a mine which may possibly turn out well, but will be diverted, instead, to the pockets of unscrupulous stock manipulators.

One of the best evidences that this Cripple Creek gold mining business is purely



CRIPPLE CREEK POLICE CHIEF.

speculation is the large number of "exchanges" in full blast in that region, wherein large dealings in stocks are daily made. Stocks are generally purchased by brokers for clients living at a distance and these clients for the most part are people who are so anxious to get rich quick that they invest their little savings in these worthless stocks, upon simply newspaper say. There is a conspiracy to defraud and there are behind this conspiracy some of the shrewdest and sharpest financial experts in this country, and it is an undoubted fact that already some millions of dollars have been taken from the people by them.

Told in a Few Lines.

John Russell Hind, the English astronomer, is dead.

Rev. George W. Dawne, D. D., died suddenly at Richmond, Va.

William G. and H. S. Hopper, Philadelphia bankers, have failed.

The Mexican press support President Cleveland and defend the Monroe doctrine.

Cokers of Connellsville, Pa., have received an advance of 10 per cent. in wages.

Sneak thieves carried off a jewelry show case containing \$1,500 worth of goods at Cleveland.

## MINING WITH FIRE.

Queer Method Employed in the Yukon  
Country in Alaska.

J. O. Hestwood, who is well known in this city, returned from Alaska on the last trip of the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer to San Francisco. Mr. Hestwood has some mining claims on the upper Yukon, near Forty-Mile City. He left that point in the early part of September, and it took him over a month to get home. He came 2,000 miles down the Yukon to St. Michaels, on the coast, then down to Unalaska, and from there across to San Francisco.

"About 700 people went into the upper Yukon country last season," said Mr. Hestwood, "by way of Juneau, making their way over the mountains at Chilkat pass, then on the ice over the great lakes for 300 miles; from there they had to go 400 miles further by boat, when they reached Forty-Mile City. There has been a great deal of activity in the mines at Forty-Mile. It was demonstrated last winter that these mines can be worked as profitably in the winter as in summer; in fact, at much less expense. This is done by the use of fire. A hole is sunk by fire down to the pay streak, the earth being thawed out by the heat. The dirt is then hoisted by windlass and left on top of the ground and is washed out in the spring. I opened up quite a rich claim this season on Glacier creek, and have men employed this winter burning. I expect to take in prospecting machinery next spring, which will enable me to locate the pay streak in the gulch in a comparatively short time. By using this machinery a hole twenty-five feet deep can be sunk in a day, when eighteen inches a day by burning is a pretty good day's work."

Speaking of the Alaska boundary dispute Mr. Hestwood said: "In my opinion, if the United States fail to hold their rightful title to the territory which is in dispute they might as well give up all claim to Alaska. If this country should have no coast line, there except above the 141st meridian, entrance to the upper Yukon would be impossible by way of an American port, except during the summer months, because the mouth of the Yukon, which is about sixty miles wide, is filled with ice from Behring sea until late in June. You can easily see what this would mean—England would absolutely control the trade of that country. It is universally claimed by experienced miners who have been in Alaska that it is one of the greatest gold bearing countries in the world. There are 5,000 miles of waterway in which gold can be found."—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

## NAPOLEON AND THE SOLDIER.

The Watermelon Didn't Count, but  
the Wounds Did.

The members of Gen. Marbot upon the first French empire relate that, on the occasion of a very formal distribution of rewards made by Napoleon before Batisson, an old grenadier came forward and demanded, somewhat sharply, to the astonishment of all, a cross of the legion of honor.

"But what have you done?" said Napoleon.

"Why, sire," said the soldier, "it was I who, in the Desert of Jaffa, when it was terribly hot, and you were parched with thirst, brought you a watermelon."

"Thank you," said Napoleon; "but a watermelon for a general is not worth a cross of legion of honor."

The grenadier flew into a violent rage. "Well, then," he shouted, "I suppose that the seven wounds that I got at Arcola and at Lodi and at Austerlitz and at Friedland go for nothing, eh? My eleven campaigns in Italy, in Egypt, in Austria, in Prussia, and in Poland you don't count, I suppose?"

"Tut, tut, tut," exclaimed the Emperor. "How do you get excited when you come to the essential point of the whole matter? I make you now a chevalier of the legion of honor for your wounds and your campaigns; but don't tell me any more about your watermelon."

## An Extraordinary Lake.

Bridger lake, in Northern Wyoming, has a queer characteristic, and one which cannot be claimed for any other body of water in America, as far as we have been informed. It has this peculiarity: It discharges its waters into both the Pacific ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. During the average seasons the waters of Bridger lake flow out through a small river which is a tributary to the Yellowstone, and the water thus discharged finally reaches the gulf by way of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. During rainy seasons the level of the lake becomes so high that the waters empty through another opening also. The waters which are discharged through this second chasm flow into Snake river, and thence to the Pacific ocean through the Columbia.

## Vandals Destroying Wild Game.

The vandals seem determined to destroy the last vestige of wild game. The laws of Oregon and Washington were enacted to protect the nesting ground of wild ducks and geese upon the Columbia and tributary waters, but the Spokesman-Review says it is "the last of the geese"; its roosting grounds along the Columbia have been invaded. It is a peculiar fowl and when its nest is disturbed the bird abandons it. So vandals should be dealt with severe; but as a rule they are out of reach of the law.

## Louisiana's Sugar Crop.

The total sugar crop of Louisiana this year is estimated at 710,000,000 pounds, an increase of 57,000 tons over that of last year.

## Life of Dogs.

Dogs, as a rule, live for about fifteen years, though there have been some instances of collies living over twenty years.